

# Trimblings

News from Tree Maintenance



*This edition of our newsletter showcases our Consultancy department, illustrating some of the situations where in-depth evaluation is required in the never-ending relationship between trees, people and property.*



*Geoffrey March*



*Nick Organ*



*Abi Fisk, office manager*

## Get the very best advice...



The Arboricultural Association is the UK's leading professional body for the care and promotion of amenity trees. As such it receives many enquiries from members of the public, businesses and organisations. Those looking for reliable and vetted contracting companies are referred to the list of Approved

Contractors, which has included Tree Maintenance since 1985. Others however require in-depth help with specific tree issues. These enquiries are referred to their list of Registered Consultants, currently numbering about 30 across the UK.

Geoffrey March was accepted onto this list in 2004, a process that involved submitting a large and varied portfolio of reports for scrutiny, followed by live interview and a final recommendation by the Professional Committee. He holds the Royal Forestry

Society's Professional Diploma in Arboriculture (the premiere qualification in this field), is a Fellow of the Arboricultural Association and a member of the International Society of Arboriculture.

Assisting with consultancy work is Nick Organ. Having first joined Tree Maintenance in 1985, Nick has built up a wealth of experience and recently passed the Arboricultural Association's Technician's Certificate after attending a specialist course once a week at nearby Westonbirt Arboretum.

## A safe site...



Site management has especially heavy responsibilities where trees and the people come together, as here at Wycliffe College. Rather than 'firefighting', a

proactive approach will give a fully documented and on-going record of your tree population. An initial survey inspects and records all trees on site, forming a permanent record for the future and

detailing any work required on safety grounds. This can be prioritised according to risk.

Annual inspections are quicker to carry out and keep the survey up to date. You have the peace of mind of a job well done, the risk assessed and dealt with - and less erratic demands on your budget.

Among many to have benefited from this approach are Cheltenham College and Cheltenham Ladies College, Zurich Insurance and Intel.

## Development sites...

Trees and development – a classic case for conflict, with trees too often ending up the losers.

However trees, buildings and infrastructure CAN co-exist if carefully planned. A proper evaluation of the existing trees will identify those that should be retained at all costs and those that could be reasonably removed. The correct protection measures will then be specified to ensure their survival, along with any remedial works necessary to put them into an acceptable

condition.

The newly-revised British Standard 5837 is normally the cornerstone for this work, but every tree is unique and bespoke solutions are often called for. A good, professional working relationship with the local authority's tree officer is also essential.

Corporate clients for consultancy include developers Bovis Homes, architects Arbutnott Ladenburg, landscape architects Illman Young and environmental consultants Nicholas Pearson Associates.



*The layout and choice of species for this small-scale planting scheme in Cornwall was carefully considered, to blend into an adjacent historic woodland. Specifying top quality stock, spot treatment of planting positions, rabbit protection and mulch mats should ensure vigorous growth!*

## That sinking feeling...

Under certain circumstances, tree roots can be capable of causing severe structural damage. However the analysis needs to be correct as the wrong course of action could prove costly...

Subsidence reports are frequently asked for – these may be fairly

straightforward or more complex, involving soil and root analysis, and consulting with structural engineers.

Possible solutions could involve underpinning, pruning work to modify the moisture abstraction, installation of a root barrier, or tree removal.



*Should these trees be removed?*



*A climbing inspection can reveal hidden defects – this Cedar had a major flaw hidden by Ivy.*

## Accident investigation...

This large Cherry tree in London was the scene of a nasty accident due to a paving slab that had been lifted by the tree's roots. The local authority had rejected the client's claim, producing as evidence a report form showing that the slabs had been inspected four months earlier and found to be satisfactory.

By the time of the site visit the whole pavement had been re-laid to billiard table-like perfection! Fortunately cut roots were in evidence, and by drawing on published research a compelling case was built up, showing that the lifting must have been in place for several years. We finally heard from the client that she had been awarded a substantial sum "...and I am sure your report was a major contribution to the success of the case".



*Perfectly relaid slabs couldn't hide the evidence...*